

Manchester Board of Health

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 17, 2022 at 8:30 a.m.

Virtual Meeting

Members present:

Peter Colarusso, Joan Cottler, Dr. Martin Hahn, Dr. Tonya Colpitts

Members absent:

Paula Filias

Dr. Colpitts called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

She asked Nurse Crehan to present her Covid update

Covid Update:

Nurse Crehan provided the following:

Total cumulative cases to date (3/1/20-3/16/22): 591

Current active cases: 6

March cases to date (positive pcr testing): 21

Hospitalizations: 0

Fully vaccinated age 5>: 83%

Essex County Percent Positivity: 1.8%

Nurse Crehan noted the next in- house vaccination clinic is on 03/21/22

She also noted that the elementary school had a Covid outbreak after February vacation of 41 cases.

That included 28 in 5th grade, 1 adult and 12 in grades pre0-k to grade 4. No new cases as of 3/14/22.

Dr. Hahn noted that there are some States where wastewater testing numbers have gone up. He said that people need to stay vigilant, and he hoped that the Covid cases will remain mild. Further, that outbreaks will happen repeatedly, and these outbreaks will affect businesses. That people need to be conscious of crowding, symptoms, and choices about gathering.

Dr. Colpitts said this activity is part of the pandemic to endemic state, that surges will happen. She noted that the metrics are for death and hospitalizations. The current strain is very contagious but with mild symptoms like flu and r.s.v. She asked that people respect each other's opinions, continue to vaccinate, and continue to get outdoors.

Dr. Hahn reported that he had conducted testing at the Boston Seafood Expo, 600 over 2 days, considerable numbers due to travel.

Dr. Colpitts added that there are a lot of asymptomatic carriers, with vaccinated persons having low levels of symptoms.

Mr. Colarusso asked that the public be reminded to get boosted, Dr. Hahn agreed with messaging about keeping vigilant.

Dr. Colpitts disagreed, stating the vigilance needed is for symptoms, including if you have symptoms stay home and test. Members commented on the increase availability of Covid test kits, including those from the Federal Government.

Mosquito Control

Ellen Lufkin stated that the 2022 Management Plan has been provided to Board members.

Also, that there will be a 03/31 regional meeting with Mosquito Control and local Boards of Health.

Dr. Hahn said he will be attending this 3/31 virtual meeting. Mr. Colarusso said that he may also be able to attend.

Members agreed to schedule an upcoming meeting to allow public comment on the 2022 management plan.

Board of Health Budget

Members discussed the next fiscal year Board of Health budget, including staffing for both a clerk and a Health Agent. Mr. Colarusso noted that the department is currently understaffed and Dr. Colpitts concurred, adding that there is not only pandemic related work, but additional health agent responsibilities.

Septic Plan Reviews

Members passed over review of plans for 2 Smith's Point Rod and 371-373 Summer Street, pending receipt of requested plan revisions.

Household Hazardous Waste

Ms. Lufkin informed the Board that she had no updates for household hazardous waste collection, pending contract information from the two vendors identified under the State contract.

There being no further information to come before the Board, Dr. Hahn made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 a.m. Ms. Cottler seconded the motion. Members, by roll call vote were unanimous to approve the motion to adjourn the meeting:

Dr. Hahn, in favor

Ms. Cottler, in favor

Mr. Colarusso, in favor

Dr. Colpitts, in favor

As submitted,

Ellen Lufkin

Administrative Assistant

